

# SUNDAY'S SERMON

THE HUMAN FACE

**Subject: "The Human Face."**

"A man's iniquity maketh his face, and his wickedness is as a banner against him. As his iniquities shall be multiplied, so shall his face be blackened."—Psalm 53:1, 2.

There is a little change in our English translation of the better meaning of the word which is derived from the character of the face is described by the character of the countenance. The word "countenance" is derived from the Latin "com" and "tenuis," which means to be thin or delicate. The word "countenance" is derived from the Latin "com" and "tenuis," which means to be thin or delicate. The word "countenance" is derived from the Latin "com" and "tenuis," which means to be thin or delicate.

A Bona's merchant was in the south of Europe for his health, and sitting on the terrace one morning in his invalid's chair, he saw a man riding on a horse into a river, and without thinking of his own weakness the merchant flung off his invalid's gown and swam to the drowning man, and clutching him as he was about to go down the last time bore him in safety to the bank, when glancing into the face of the rescued man he cried, "My God, I have saved my own son!"

All kindness comes back to us in one way or another: If not in any other way, then in your own face. Kindness! Show it to others, for the time may come when you will need it yourself. People laughed at the lion because he spared the mouse that ran over him when by one motion of his paw the monster could have crushed the insignificant disturber. But it was mercy for one day the lion was caught in a trap and roared fearfully because he was held fast by ropes. Then the mouse knew off the ropes and let the lion go free. You may consider yourself a lion, but you cannot afford to despise a mouse.

When Abraham Lincoln pardoned a young soldier at the request of his mother, the mother went down the stairs of the White House saying, "They have lied about the President's being homely. He is the handsomest man I ever saw." All over that President's rugged face was written the kindness which he so well illustrated when he said, "Some of our generals complain that I impair discipline and subordination in the army by my pardons and respites, but it makes me rested after a hard day's work if I can find some good excuse for saving a man's life. I got to bed happier as I think how joyful the signing of my name will make him and his family." Kindness! It makes the face shine while life lasts and after death puts a summer sunset between the still lips and the smoothed hair that makes me say, sometimes at obsequies, "She seems too beautiful to bury."

When there comes another chisel, and its name is hypocrisy. Christ, with our terrific stroke in His sermon on the mount described this character. "When ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance, for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast." Hypocrisy having taken possession of the soul, it immediately appears in the countenance. Hypocrites are graveyards in their faces. They are fearful when there is nothing to cry about, and in their prayers they catch for their breath and have such general dolfulness that they disgust young people with religion. We had one of them in one of my churches. When he exorted, he always deplored the low state of religion in other people, and when he prayed it was an attack of hysteria, and he went into a paroxysm of obs and shts that seemed to demand re-encantation. He went on in that way until we had to expel him from the church for stealing the property intrusted to him as administrator and for other vices that I will not mention, and he wrote me several letters not at all complimentary from the West, saying that he was daily praying for my everlasting destruction. A man cannot have hypocrisy in his heart without showing it in his face. All intelligent people who witness it know it is nothing but a dramatization.

Oh, the power of the human face! I warrant that you have known faces so magnetic and impressive that, though they vanished long ago, they still hold you with a holy spell. How long, since your child went away, you say, "If she had lived she would have been ten years old now, or twenty or thirty years." But does not that infant's face still have tender supremacy over your memory?

Michael Angelo, the sculptor, visiting Florence, some one showed him in a back yard a piece of marble that was so shapeless that it seemed to have no use at all. He was asked if he could make anything out of it, and if so was told he could own it. The artist took the marble, and for nine months shut himself up to work, first trying to make of it a statue of David with his foot on Goliath, but the marble was not quite long enough at the base to make the prostrate form of the giant, and so the artist fashioned the marble into another figure that is so famous for all time because of its expressive beauty. A critic came in and was asked by Angelo for his criticism, and he said it was beautiful, but the nose of the statue was not of right shape. Angelo poked up from the floor some sand and tossed it about the face of the statue pretending he was using his chisel to make the improvement suggested by the critic. "What do you think of it now?" said the artist. "Wonderfully improved," said the critic. "Well," said the artist, "I have not changed it at all." My friends, the grace of God comes to the heart of a man or woman and then attempts to change a forbidding and prejudicial face into attractiveness. Perhaps the face is most unpromising for the Divine sculptor. But having changed the heart it begins to work on the countenance with celestial chisel, and into all the lineaments of the face puts a gladness and an expectation that changes it from glory to glory, and though earthly criticisms may disapprove of this or that in the appearance of the face Christ says of the newly created countenance that which Pilate said of Him, "Behold the man!"

Here is another mighty chisel for the countenance, and you may call it revenge or hate or malevolence. This spirit having taken possession of the heart, it encamps seven devils under the eyebrows. It puts crudely into the compression of the lips. You can tell from the man's looks that he is pursuing some one and trying to get even with him. There are suggestions of Nero and Robespierre and Diocletian and thunders of infernal artists with murderers' daggers have been outting. The revengeful heart has built its partition in the revengeful countenance. Disfigurement of diabolic passion!

But here comes another chisel to shape the countenance, and it is kindness. There came a moving day, and into her soul moved the whole family of Christian graces, with all their children and grandchildren, and the command has come forth from the heavens that that woman's face shall be made to correspond with her superb soul. Her entire face from ear to ear becomes the canvas upon which all the best artists of heaven begin to put their finest strokes, and on the small compass of that face are put pictures of sunrise over the sea, and angels of mercy going up and down ladders all afash, and mountains of transfiguration and noonday in heaven. Kindness! It is the most magnificent sculptor that ever touched human countenance.

No one could wonder at the unusual gentility in the face of William Winwood, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, after seeing him at the New York banquet just before he dropped dead, turning his eyes glassy and staring, saying, "I may be doing this deed now, but by not doing it I should have done many more." The kind and gentle face of Winwood had been what you would call a "face of a saint."

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## SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

**A splendid series of photographs of Brooks's comet has been obtained.**

In the space of one minute the polygons can change its form a hundred times.

Danish lighthouses are supplied with oil to pump on the waves during a storm.

Dr. Hermann Zeigler, the German scientist, says a forecast of the weather may be determined by photographs of the sun's disk.

Peas and beans cooked in hard water containing lime or gypsum will not boil tender, because these substances harden vegetable caseine.

Scotch manufacturers of carbon disulphide supply most of the French demand for this article, which is extensively used in the destruction of phylloxera on grape vines.

The Capitol of Hartford, Conn., is of marble. Local engineers claim that it expands an inch to each 100 feet, being three inches longer in summer than in winter.

In the tanning industry electricity is beginning to play an important part. The largest tannery in Switzerland will soon be reconstructed and enlarged for the purpose of adopting the process of electric tanning.

The anable, a fish that inhabits the rivers of Guiana and Surinam, has two pupils in each eye, an upper and a lower one. When the fish is swimming it keeps this upper optic, which protrudes above the head, out of the water.

The green ants of Australia make nests by bending leaves together and uniting them with a kind of natural glue. Cook saw hundreds at a time on one leaf drawing it to the ground, while an equal number waited to receive, hold and fasten it.

Earthenware sleepers, the invention of Matsui Tokutaro, a Japanese, were recently experimented on at Shimabara Station, Japan. Fairly good results were obtained. It is claimed that the increased cost of earthenware sleepers is amply compensated by their freedom from decay.

Dentists are great users of costly metal. Beside gold for stopping, two-sevenths of the world's consumption of platinum is employed by them in making the wires by which the artificial teeth are firmly fastened to a plate. It is the only metal possessing the required properties.

In the Institute of Experimental Pathology in Vienna Professors Hasterlik and Stockmayer, four students and others, analyzed a quantity of comma bacilli. They suffered no bad effects beyond headache and nausea. Professor Stricker therefore draws the conclusion that the comma bacilli will not cause cholera in the case of strong, healthy subjects.

The Russian naval authorities have not been slow to take advantage of the lessons taught by the sinking of Her Majesty's steamer Victoria. An exact model of the sunken vessel is, it is said, being constructed in Cronstadt, and this, together with the information available as to the causes of the accident, will serve as an object lesson to Russian naval architects as well as what shall be avoided in designing new vessels.

**Rabbits for the Market.**

It is not generally known that a rabbit ranch exists near this city on what promises to be quite an extensive scale. J. B. Baumgartner and Matthias Foerg are the owners of the ranch, and already have a barn forty feet long and divided up into stalls, all of which are now occupied by bunny and his numerous progeny.

The rabbits are the lop-eared variety, a breed exceeding scarce and held at fancy prices in the United States. Mr. Baumgartner imported two pairs from Switzerland a year and a half ago, paying \$200 for them. He now has over sixty rabbits from those two pairs.

The rabbits breed seven times a year and have from eight to ten to a litter. When full grown they weigh from fourteen to eighteen pounds. They are most delicious eating, their flesh being considered superior to chicken. As they command from fifteen to twenty cents per pound, rabbit farming is much more profitable than chicken raising.

Like ordinary rabbits they are practically omnivorous. They are beautiful animals, with their long, silky hair and fluffy fur. Unlike other rabbits, they do not burrow except at breeding time, and are exceedingly tame by nature and easily kept. Baumgartner & Foerg say that they have only made a fair beginning in the business and are already planning to enlarge their building and ranch.—South Bend (Ind.) Journal.

**The Wealth of Cuba.**

Cuba is a rich country. On this island there are 90,960 sugar and tobacco plantations and fruit and vegetable farms, the total value of which is \$325,000,000. Cuba's yearly exports amount to \$90,000,000, while the imports are only \$43,750,000. Of the latter \$16,250,000 is from this country. Nearly \$50,000,000 goes annually to the support of Spain.—Detroit Free Press.

## OPPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT.

**The Administration Not in Favor of the Bland Seigniorage Bill.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—If any doubts have heretofore been entertained as to the president's attitude on the silver seigniorage question, those doubts seem to be entirely removed by conversation had with the president just before his departure for North Carolina. It is positively stated that one principal source of the disgruntlement which led the president to seek relief in this trip in the face of unusually inclement and threatening weather was the continued effort in the house to revive the silver agitation by the Bland bill for the coinage of the silver seigniorage. From those who have recently spoken to the president on this subject this information is derived. When the bill was determined upon, for the purpose of relieving the treasury of financial embarrassment, it was for the very purpose of avoiding the necessity for the coinage of the silver seigniorage. If the administration had seen its way clear to have raised almost as much money as by bond issue without increasing the public debt or the annual interest thereon. But the money the president wanted was gold, not silver. It is generally understood that Secretary Carlisle on his visit to New York to encourage the subscriptions to the bonds, gave assurances, either in his official or personal capacity, that the administration was not opposed to the coinage of the silver seigniorage. Up to that point the subscriptions to the bonds had lagged. When all the bonds were subscribed for, but before the money was paid in, intimations were received here from New York that if there was any prospect that the silver seigniorage bill, emerging from the house committee, would become a law, some of the largest subscribers to the bonds would refuse to them. It was then that Secretary Carlisle, it is said, reiterated his opposition to the silver seigniorage bill, both in newspapers and to the committee on judiciary of the house.

## SIBLY A LITTLE INDISCREET.

**Bradford Academy Girls Indignant at Copies of Wednesday's Occurrence.**

BRADFORD, Mass., Feb. 28.—The teaching students of Bradford academy are indignant that such exaggerated accounts of occurrence of last Wednesday night had been published. As a matter of fact, none of the girls have been expelled and none have been suspended. According to one of the teachers the facts are as follows: Last Wednesday night some Tuft's college students came over after their concert in Haverhill and serenaded the girls. Music naturally awakened them and some of them went to the windows to see serenaders. They may even have seen to the boys, but no one has charged anything more scandalous than a breach of propriety occurred. A meeting was held Thursday night by girls to disclaim and protest against a thoughtless and action of indiscretion which a very few may have committed.

## MR. WILSON BETTER.

**Physicians, White Anxious, Say With Rest He Will Recover.**

MEXICO, Feb. 28.—Congressman William E. Wilson, who is ill of typhoid fever in Guadalajara, was somewhat more comfortable last night. Mr. Wilson's physicians are extremely anxious concerning their patient, but say that with absolute rest and quiet he will pull through.

**Washington, Up a Snail's Pace.**

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 24.—Gaudard, the Parisian has not yet had a reply from Sullivan and Harding, the English scullers, to his offer to row them a double scull race, with Hanlan and his mate. Gaudard offers to row any man in the world a single scull race in America or England or will row any pair in the world a double scull match with Hanlan as his partner for \$5,000 a side.

**Recruited at Sea.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The City of Birmingham, just arrived, brought particulars of the rescue of the captain and crew of the water-logged schooner Calumet Club, of Baltimore, on Feb. 16, about thirty miles south of Hatteras. The schooner was full of water and the waves were breaking over her decks, which were nearly awash.

**Thirty-Five Below Zero.**

FORT PLAIN, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The weather in the Mohawk valley Sunday morning was the coldest of the winter. At 7 o'clock the thermometer registered in some places twenty-eight degrees below zero. At Northville it was thirty-five degrees below zero.